

Diploma thesis „Eight-year grammar schools – escape or opportunity?“ deals with controversial part of the czech educational system. Eight-year grammar schools have been established in 1849 and are part of czech educational system ever since with an interruption since 1948 to 1990. Their renewal in 1990 was motivated by return to tradition and need for high quality education for future elite. These arguments aren't to persuasive in closer view. Firstly grammar schools nowadays are different from those in the past and secondly results of researches do not confirm advantages of ability tracking. Approach of Ministry of Education to this institution changes with time, its inconsistency mirrors in differences in supply of this kind of education in regions and cities throughout the Czech Republic. This raises the question of equality of educational opportunity and fairness of such a arrangement. Eight-year grammar schools are especially popular in Prague because of their "elite" status, but the motivation of applicants is not so straightforward as a lot of them seek rather an escape from dissatisfying conditions in an elementary school than opportunity of a higher quality education.